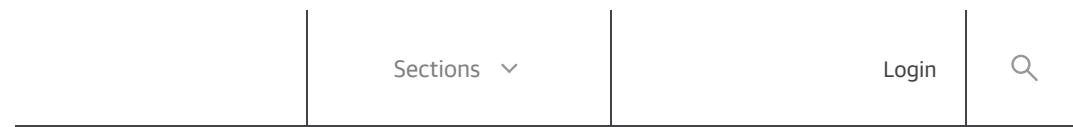


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Blizzard rolls out Battle.net voice chat starting with 'Overwatch'



J. Conditt | 10.23.15
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October 23, 2015
2:45 PM

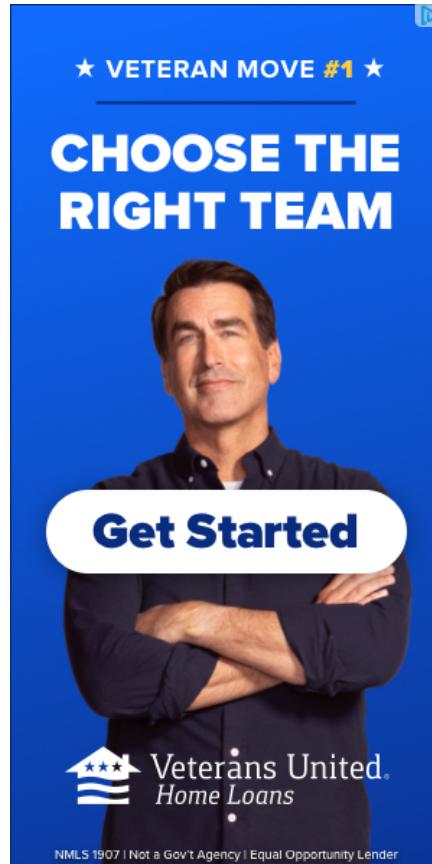


In this article: Activision, activisionblizzard, battle.net, battlenet, Blizzard, hdpostcross, overwatch, voice, VoiceChat



[Blizzard](#) has been in the online gaming business for decades with massively popular games like *StarCraft* and *World of Warcraft*, but it's never implemented a native voice-chat system in its Battle.net client.

Now, it appears that's about to change. Blizzard is testing out voice chat in the beta for its new team-based shooter, *Overwatch*, and it sounds like



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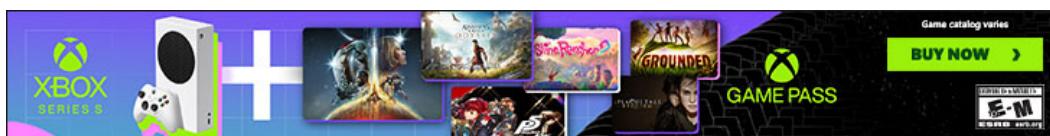
its games. In the [Overwatch beta FAQ](#), Blizzard calls the system "Battle.net voice chat," rather than something *Overwatch*-specific. Plus, it notes, "With voice chat still in its early development and testing stages, it's too early to say which Blizzard games will be supported and when." Prepare your vocal cords, players: The [Overwatch](#) [closed beta](#) begins on October 27th.

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Blizzard will go offline in China next year

Its license agreement with NetEase in the nation will expire on January 23, 2023.



S. Dent | 11.17.22
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November 17, 2022
3:49 AM

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In this article: NetEase, China, news, gaming, World of Warcraft, Activision, Blizzard, Hearthstone, Overwatch 2

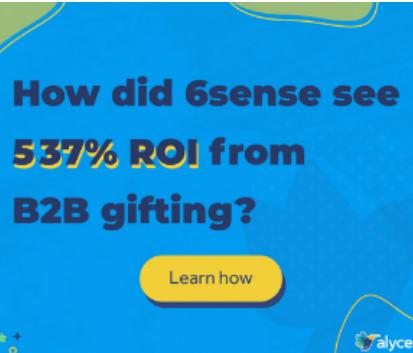


Blizzard

Blizzard Entertainment will be suspending key games like [Overwatch 2](#) and [World of Warcraft](#) in China because it failed to reach an agreement with partner [NetEase](#), it [announced](#). Those titles along with *Hearthstone*, *Starcraft*, *Heroes of the Storm*, *Diablo III* and *Warcraft III: Reforged* will

be unavailable in China starting on January 23, 2023. [Diablo Immortal](#), which arrived earlier this year, won't be affected as it's covered by a separate agreement, according to [NetEase](#).

"The two parties have not reached a deal to renew the agreements that is consistent with Blizzard's operating principles and commitments to players



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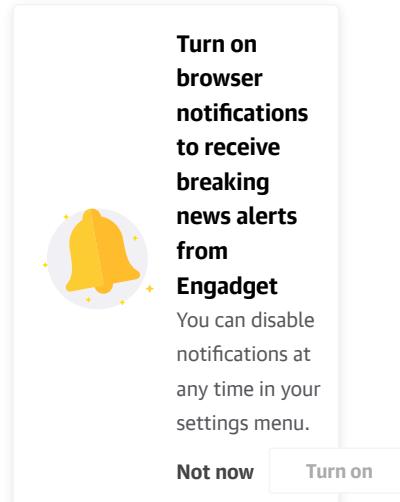
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Blizzard said in the press release. "We will suspend new sales in the coming days and Chinese players will be receiving details of how this will work soon. Upcoming releases for *World of Warcraft*: *Dragonflight*, *Hearthstone*: *March of the Lich King*, and season 2 of *Overwatch* 2 will proceed later this year."

NetEase is China's second largest gaming company and has partnered with Blizzard since 2008. It's a key player for Blizzard in the nation, helping guarantee that its games meet China's [strict content requirements](#).

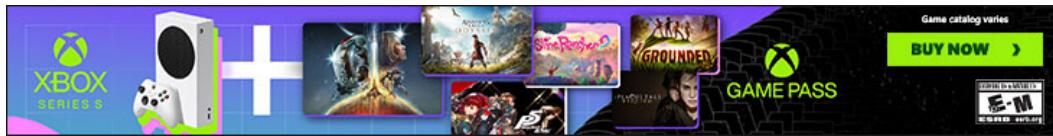
The deal wasn't just about money, but also who owned the the intellectual property and player data, according to [Bloomberg](#).



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when what has happened behind the scene could be told, developers and gamers will have a whole new level understanding of how much damage a jerk can make," said NetEase's president of global investment and partnership, Simon Zhu, in a [LinkedIn post](#) spotted by [TechCrunch](#). Blizzard, meanwhile, said "we are looking for alternatives to bring our games back to players in the future."

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